

REMARKS

Applicant's Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants wish to express appreciation to Examiner Vikkram Bali for the courtesy of a personal interview which was granted to Applicants' representative Michael Faibisch (Reg. No. 48,427) at the USPTO on April 13, 2005. The Examiner's statement of the substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary, numbered Paper No. 20050413. During the interview, Claim 8 was discussed vis-à-vis the Samuels reference. In the interview, Applicants' representative pointed out that the Samuels Reference does not fairly show or describe each electrical circuit comprising a plurality of electrical circuit features such as holes or pads. However, the Examiner held that each of the respective first and second patterns in the Samuels reference contains a plurality of electrical circuit features. Agreement was not reached.

General Remarks

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed December 27, 2004, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims under consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 – 17 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 8 is currently amended.

The prior art rejections.

Claims 8 – 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Samuels (U.S. 6,483,937). Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections as applied to each rejected claim.

Samuels describes a computer operated process for inspecting patterns on an object that includes establishing different mismatch margins for different patterns.

Claim 8 has been amended and includes, *inter alia*, the following distinguishing recitation:

obtaining orientation information for ones of
the electrical circuits in said plurality of
electrical circuits, at least some electrical
circuits being oriented differently from other
electrical circuits

Support for this amendment can be found, *inter alia*, in the written specification at page 3, line 28 – page 4 line 7 and page 4, lines 19 – 23, and in the drawings at Figs. 2 and 3.

As noted above, Samuels describes a computer operated process for inspecting patterns on an object that includes establishing different mismatch margins for different patterns. No explicit mention is made in the Samuels reference regarding the content of different patterns, or to the fact that a pattern contains a plurality of features such as holes or pads.

As pointed out by the Examiner in the December 27, 2004 Office Action, Samuels “fails explicitly disclose obtaining orientation for the electrical circuit as claimed (sic).” To find this missing claim element, the Examiner states that, “as described in col. 3, lines 20 – 25 the design layout is the design data i.e. the data is made up of different circuits with their size and shapes, therefore one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention can simply call that as the orientation data, and can be use in the inspection process to generate a image map for the inspection (sic)”.

The Applicants respectfully traverse this reasoning, and respectfully point out that design layout 41 refers to a design layout for a mask 31, not to a design layout of various patterns (i.e. electrical circuits) that are found on the mask. Moreover, nothing in the Samuels reference shows or describes, *inter alia*, obtaining orientation information for ones of the electrical circuits in the plurality of electrical circuits, at least some electrical circuits being oriented differently from other electrical circuits on a printed circuit board panel. Applicants respectfully submit that a person skilled in the art would not, and could not reasonably be expected to, call a design layout for an entire mask including several patterns analogous to orientation information for ones of electrical circuits that are found on a panel.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of Claim 8 and its dependent claims 9 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

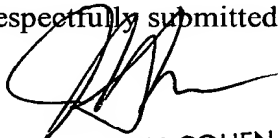
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
US APPLICATION NO. 09/730,381
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. U 013094-4 (40667/534)

Conclusion and request for telephone interview.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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